

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HELSIN 03167 301809Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00
L-03 /039 W

-----058163 010447Z /10

R 290853Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253

UNCLAS HELSINKI 3167

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, FI
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY

REF: STATE 178135

1. THE FINNISH NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE AND CONSUMER
INTERESTS HAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY WITH THE FOLLOWING INFO ON
FOOD LABELING:

(A) ON OCT 1, 1981, THE BOARD WILL REQUIRE MATERIALS
IN MANUFACTURED FOODSTUFFS TO BE DECLARED ON THE LABEL IN
DECREASING WEIGHT ORDER. ADDITIVES WILL BE DECLARED BY
USING CATEGORY NAMES INDICATING THEIR PURPOSES.

(B) ACCORDING TO A DECISION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE
AND CONSUMER INTERESTS NOW IN THE DRAFTING STAGE, DECLARATION
OF NUTRIENT CONTENTS, I.E., ENERGY, FAT, PROTEIN AND CARBO-
HYDRATES, WILL BE VOLUNTARY AND IF STATED, WILL BE DECLARED IN
GRAMS PER 100 GRAMS OR IN LIQUID FORM PER ON DL OF THE
FOODSTUFF. CARBOHYDRATES MAY BE FURTHER BROKEN DOWN INTO
TO TOTAL QUANTITY OF SUGARS ADDED OR NATURALLY PRESENT,
EXPRESSED AS GRAMS PER 100 GRAMS OF THE FOODSTUFF.

(C) SUGAR IS INTERPRETED AS INCLUDING:

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--NONOSACCHARIDES:GLUCOSE, FRUCTOSE AND GALACTASE

--DISACCHARIDES:MALTOSE, SACCHAROSE AND LACTOSE

--ALDISOLES: MALTISOLE, SORBITOL, MANNITOL AND XYLITOL

--OLIGOSACCHARIDES AND POLYSACCHARIDES MADE UP OF MONOSACC-

HARIDES MENTIONED ABOVE AND USED FOR SWEETENING.

(C) THE BOARD HAS, IN A CIRCULAR, SUGGESTED THAT
EXPRESSESION SUCH AS "SUGAR-FREE" OR "LOW-SUGAR CONTENT"
BE AVOIDED.

(3) AT PRESENT, LABELING WITH REFERENCE TO DISEASES
(E.G., FOR DIABETICS OR PERSONS ALLERGIC TO CERTAIN
FOODS), IS FORBIDDEN IN FINLAND, AS INFO GIVEN ON THE CON-
TENTS IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE.
RIDGWAY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABELING, REPORTS, LAW, FOODS, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN03167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780400-1174
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978097/aaaaafib.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aa84b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 178135
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1444109
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL FOOD LABELING SURVEY
TAGS: EIND, SWEL, TBIO, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aa84b350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014